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Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

WEATHER.

Western Oregon—Rain or snow south and possibly snow flurries north portion. Not so cold.

Western Washington—Fair and slightly warmer.

AVOIDING A WATER FAMINE.

That a large area of the City of Astoria was not built to withstand the encroachment of a severe cold season, has been demonstrated beyond all question during the past three days, especially in the matter of the water service to the houses within that area. The supply is, unquestionably, ample so far as source and system of delivery are concerned, and the shortage imposed by the expedients to which the water commission is driven, is due to the fact that nine-tenths of the people in that area, have not used the water with any circumspection whatever. In the face of the threatened curtailment of supply. It were infinitely better to put up with a meagre supply than sacrifice that supply entirely and set up a water famine. And it was to avoid this last drastic circumstance that the rule of shutting off the water at 9 o'clock at night has been adopted. The drain on the reservoirs has been immense during the cold wave, and the people who have deliberately let their faucets run wide open all night, may thank themselves for the conditions that might have been obviated had they gone to the trouble of draining them at the cut-offs provided, instead. That many did this accounts for the fact that there are some friendly sources of home and office supply still at command. Another thing that has contributed to the uncomfortable situation, in many instances, is the flimsy quality of a great deal of the plumbing throughout the city. It pays to plumb properly, for the dollar spent in full, practical equipment of the building, in the first instance, is saved at junctures of this sort that demand repairs aggregating almost as much as the original plant cost. If this city is pulled through without a real famine of water it will be because the water people have done exactly the right thing at the right moment.

IT IS UP TO ASTORIA.

There is no further excuse for the people of Astoria waiting for, or bewailing the non-application of, the common-point rate on grain at this port. There is a clear-cut law to invoke for its instant extension to this city or any other that is denied it. It is strictly up to the people here, through their council, their chamber of commerce, or other civic body of representatives, to get to the very core and substance of the matter. We publish the law in full, this morning, on the first page of the Astorian, and do it gladly, and will be only too glad to herald the first action taken by Astorians to remedy the long-standing evil of wilful denial by the O. R. & N. Company and its allies in the northwest, that have maintained the studied neglect and deliberate deprivation. Go to it, Astorians!

THE POPULAR PUZZLE.

"How old is Ann?" sinks into utter nothingness when contrasted, in Astoria, with the infinitely deeper, and more important puzzle of "Has the A.

& C. been sold?" One can get any sort of answer he likes to the inscrutable query. He can get all manner of affirmative assurances from all sorts of men, some of whose statements are entitled to due and honest consideration; he can get all sorts of specific denials, with applicable reasons thrown in, from people supposedly posted in their declarations; and also holding the attribute of authority; and the host of those who don't know is endless, and their frankness refreshing. That there is something doing in relation to the line, that there is something quite tangible to come, is now admitted to be beyond further dispute, but the matter is so well hedged and guarded that no one can speak with certainty, aside from the indubitable conclusion that THERE IS SOMETHING DOING. The pertinacity of those making this latter assertion is of a sort to actually warrant a belief in their deductions, and some go so far as to set a date, February 15, for instance, when the coming proof shall be at hand. There are others again who openly say that General Manager Talbot has said the road was about to be sold and are apparently prepared to back the statement. But, the flat word has not been spoken, either way, so far as this paper can fathom the situation, and we are disposed to leave it to time, the source of all unravelment and certitude.

CLIPPING CORPORATE CLAWS.

Campbell, of Clackamas, is after the public service corporations, with bare knuckles and blood in his eye. His bill for their regulation, introduced in the house, on Thursday, is full of meat, and makes a tip-top showing of the popular hand, and mind, in the fight that is pending. It has the tenor, temper and tendency of the real sort, and expresses the idea that the people of Oregon are about to do business for themselves, and for the corporate combines. It is drastic in some ways, but its tone is right and wholesome, and we hope the legislature will take its cue from the measure and follow it to an honest end, even if it has to modify the terms in some degree.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

December was so called because it was the tenth month of the year. But somehow the machine jumped a couple of cogs and it is now the twelfth month. However, let the children understand that the operations of nature have gone on without a break—it was the ignorance of man in times past that put the reckoning out of gear and left to their posterity a job of repair work on the almanac time tables.

Comparing our lives with those of the pilgrim fathers, we are rich beyond their greatest dream or desire. Immaterial things did not worry them as they do us; they asked only to be free to worship God and had dared an unknown sea and an untrod world for this principle, and there on the "rock bound coast" planted the seeds of freedom that were to bring forth fruit on through the ages.

Society in Cincinnati is said not to have taken kindly to Mrs. Longworth's fondness for politics, and another woman that has not taken to it is Mrs. Longworth's maid. The pretty daughter of the President does not think anything too good for the "people" and wore all her smartest Parisian gowns to the despair of the keeper of her wardrobe, who sighs as she puts on the pretty gown that is just as likely as not to be ruined in the crush.

The Philadelphia bomb thrower turns out to be a citizen of Chicago, the little Russia of the United States.

Having been so thoroughly tried in the newspapers, it is not expected that the Thaw case will last very long.

Texas is trembling in the balance on the octopus question. How circumstances alter cases in some kinds of politics.

The schoolbook trust is in favor of text-book uniformity. The nearer its monopoly is uniform, the better the trust is pleased.

No one likes to complain during the two months remaining of the present congress that its proceedings lack contemporaneous interest.

In the projection of new airship routes the newspapers will be estopped from making the customary observation that "dirt will soon be flying."

According to the testimony presented to the interstate commerce commission the Oregon Short Line has conceived the clever idea of encompassing the earth.

WON BY FOREIGNERS

South American Markets Lost to Producers of this Country.

LAND HAUL HERE TOO COSTLY

Goods Shipped from United States Do Not Approach in Value English and German Products, Which Gain Ground Yearly.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Following close on Secretary Root's recent appeal to commercial America to foster trade relations with the countries to the south of the United States, comes the report of the Department of Commerce and Labor showing how the United States is being outstripped by Great Britain and Germany in markets that lie at the doors of this country. Considering the three nations' geographical relationship to Latin-America, it is remarkable that the United States has permitted its foreign trade rivals to wrest from it such a valuable market.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1906 this country exported into the Argentine Republic goods to the value of \$32,673,400. For the calendar year of 1905 Great Britain's imports to that country reached the total of \$63,132,300, or nearly three times that of the United States. Into Brazil in the same periods the United States imported \$14,500,000; this country's imports to Chile totaled \$8,573,000, while Great Britain's reached more than \$23,000,000. The discrepancy was even greater in the imports to Uruguay, the United States furnishing goods to the value of more than \$10,000,000. Relatively large gains in the German trade are noted over the trade of the United States.

In seeking for the cause of this peculiar condition of affairs, it has been discovered that both England and Germany hold the trade advantage in South America because of their admirably developed waterways at home. Germany is enabled to load her ships directly at her cities of manufacture and carry these shiploads half way round the world at low transportation rates. England, by reason of her canals and splendid harbors, is enabled to do the same thing. Under present conditions the United States is forced to ship great distances by rail to ports on her seaboard, with the result that when the goods are transferred from freight car to ship, their value has been greatly enhanced by reason of heavy land transportation tolls. In other words, it is practically impossible at the present time for the Middle West to compete with foreign nations in the South American markets.

This unhappy and illogical condition in the country's export trade has stimulated in a great degree the interest aroused here in the movement to develop the interior waterways of the United States. If the great rivers of

the country were made navigable it would be possible for manufacturers to ship entirely by water and meet the stiffest competition of British or German manufactures. It would also open up for America wheat and other grains a market which now is practically dominated by the German growers.

The National Rivers & Harbors Congress, which includes in the membership individuals and organizations in nearly every State in the Union, is working to bring this condition of affairs about. Members of Congress have received from its secretary, J. F. Ellison, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a call that has been sent out broadcast, inviting every organization and commercial body and every firm and individual in every State in the Union to join in the movement. Before the Sixtieth Congress convenes it is very probable that a such tide of public sentiment in favor of waterway development will sweep the country, that the Federal government will be compelled to take action and develop the internal resources of the U. S. as they should be developed.

Morning Astorian, 60 cents a month, delivered by carrier.

FEARFUL ITCHING BURNING SORES

Boy in Misery 12 Years—Eczema Spread Over Body in Rough Scales, Cracked, Inflamed, and Swollen—Case Pronounced Incurable, but Completely Cured by Two Sets of Cuticura Remedies.

HIS SKIN NOW FINE AND SMOOTH AS SILK

"I wish to inform you that your wonderful Cuticura has put a stop to twelve years of misery I passed with my son. As an infant I noticed on his body a red spot and treated same with different remedies for about five years, but when the spot began to get larger I put him under the care of doctors. Under their treatment the disease spread to four different parts of his body. The longer the doctors treated him the worse it grew. During the day it would get rough and form like scales. At night it would be cracked, inflamed, and badly swollen, with terrible burning and itching. When I think of his suffering, it nearly breaks my heart. His screams could be heard down stairs. The suffering of my son made me full of misery. I had no ambition to work, to eat, nor could I sleep.

"One doctor told me that my son's eczema was incurable, and gave it up for a bad job. One evening I saw an article in the paper about the wonderful Cuticura and decided to give it a trial.

"I tell you that Cuticura Ointment is worth its weight in gold, and when I had used the first box of Ointment there was a great improvement, and by the time I had used the second set of Cuticura Soap, Cuticura Ointment, and Cuticura Resolvent my child was cured. He is now twelve years old, and his skin is as fine and smooth as silk. Michael Steinman, 7 Sumner Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., April 16, 1905."

FOR WOMAN'S EYE

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GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS

Bears the Signature of

Chas. H. Fletcher

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